



HB 1171

January 17th, 2025

Conner Mumaw, North Dakota Student Association

614-353-0400 | connor.mumaw@ndus.edu

Chair Longmuir and Members of the Committee:

My name is Connor Mumaw, and I am a NDSCS delegate for the North Dakota Student Association. I am here to express my support for HB 1171.

The North Dakota Student Association (NDSA) is a student organization established in 1969 that is dedicated to ensuring that students have a voice in policy that affects Higher Education. The NDSA consists of delegates from each of the 11 public institutions that meet monthly to engage students in Higher Education policy in North Dakota. Our mission is to empower students, foster collaboration between students across campuses in the North Dakota University System, and to advocate on issues of higher education in support of access, affordability, quality, and the student experience.

Going into the 69th legislative session, the NDSA General Assembly passed [NDSA-01-2425](#), which is a resolution that outlines the NDSA's priorities for the legislative session. One of the priorities outlined in NDSA-01-2425 is incentivizing students to attend NDUS institutions by increasing the affordability of the NDUS through scholarships and grants comparable to others in the region and to workforce needs. Historically, the NDSA has supported scholarship bills and passed resolutions NDSA-08-2223, NDSA-09-2223, and NDSA-12-2223, all of which either are resolutions supporting scholarships or have clauses supporting them.

Over the last several years, North Dakota has experienced prominent workforce shortages in a variety of professions. A few of those professions include first responders, such as EMT's and

firefight According to an article published in 2023 by the North Dakota New Cooperative¹, many towns struggle to recruit and retain police officers stating that at least 57 localities in North Dakota seek police officers, sheriff deputies, and other law enforcement staff. In addition, other news articles indicate that Bismark has 10 open police officer positions, and Minot having 10 to 12 open officer positions.

HB 1171 would incentivize people to become first responders and officers by offering financial support to their family members who go to college, therefore helping address these workforce shortages for first responders and officers. HB 1171 would also support first responders and their families by helping them pay for college. First responders risk their lives every day and some do fall in the line of duty. HB 1171 would support those family members after their loved ones fall by relieving the stress of paying for college for their families.

And so, for these reasons, the NDSA supports HB 1171 and would ask for DO PASS recommendation on this bill.

1- [Many towns struggle to recruit, retain officers](#)